The Land Before Time

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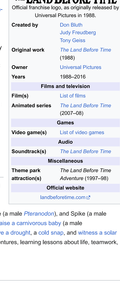
This article is about the media franchise. For the first film that was introduced in the series, see The Land Before Time (film). For the video game, see The Land Before Time (2001 video game). For the television series, see The Land Before Time (TV series). For the soundtrack, see The Land Before Time. For other uses, see The Land Before Time (disambiguation).

The Land Before Time is a franchise consisting of American animated adventure family films created around dinosaurs, including a theatrical movie, various straight-to-home video sequels, and a spin-off TV series. Based on an original story by Judy Freudberg and Tony Geiss and distributed by Universal Pictures, the franchise began in 1988 with the eponymous film, directed and produced by Don Bluth and executive produced by George Lucas and Steven Spielberg. Its success spawned an additional thirteen direct-to-video musical sequels before expanding into other media including video games, soundtracks, and related merchandising. Notably, the additional movies and TV show did not include the collaborative participation of Bluth, Lucas, nor Spielberg.

The 14 films were released as a Complete Collection DVD set on June 14, 2016.[1]



Plot

The films follow the friendship of a group of young reptiles (four dinosaurs and a pterosaur) named Littlefoot (a male Apatosaurus), Cera (a female Triceratops), Ducky (a female Saurolophus), Petrie (a male Pteranodon), and Spike (a male Stegosaurus). After finding the Great Valley, they raise a carnivorous baby (a male Tyrannosaurus whom they name Chomper), survive a drought, a cold snap, and wildness a solar eclipse. Throughout the films they embark on adventures, learning lessons about life, teamwork, and friendship along the way.

Films

Theatrical

Film	Year	Director	Screenwriter	Story by	Producer(s)
The Land Before Time	1988	Don Bluth	Stu Krieger	Judy Freudberg and Tony Geiss	Don Bluth, Gary Goldman and John Pomeroy

Direct-to-video

Film	Year	Director	Screenwriter(s)	Producer(s)
The Land Before Time II: The Great Valley Adventure	1994[2]	Roy Allen Smith	John Loy, John Ludin and Dev Ross	Roy Allen Smith
The Land Before Time III: The Time of the Great Giving	1995		Dev Ross	Roy Allen Smith and Zahra Dowlatabadi
The Land Before Time IV: Journey Through the Mists	1996			Roy Allen Smith
The Land Before Time V: The Mysterious Island	1997	Charles Grosvenor	John Loy	Charles Grosvenor
The Land Before Time VI: The Secret of Saurus Rock	1998		Libby Hinson and John Loy	
The Land Before Time VII: The Stone of Cold Fire	2000		Len Uhley	
The Land Before Time VIII: The Big Freeze	2001		John Loy	
The Land Before Time IX: Journey to Big Water	2002		Dev Ross	
The Land Before Time X: The Great Longneck Migration	2003		John Loy	
The Land Before Time XI: Invasion of the Tinysauruses	2005			
The Land Before Time XII: The Great Day of the Flyers	2006			
The Land Before Time XIII: The Wisdom of Friends	2007	Jamie Mitchell	Cliff Ruby and Elana Lesser	Lisa Melbye and Deidre Brenner
The Land Before Time XIV: Journey of the Brave	2016	Davis Doi		

Television series

Main article: The Land Before Time (TV series)

Series	Season(s)	Episodes	Originally released		Showrunner	Executive producers	Status
			First released	Last released	Network		
The Land Before Time	1	26	March 5, 2007	January 21, 2008	Cartoon Network	Charles Grosvenor	Charles Grosvenor and Diane A. Crea	Ended

A spin-off television series based on the films began airing on YTV in Canada on January 5, 2007. It consisted of one season of 26 episodes, and officially premiered on Cartoon Network in the United States on March 5, 2007, after the DVD release of *The Land Before Time XII: The Great Day of the Flyers*.[3] The TV series takes place after the events of *The Land Before Time XIII: The Wisdom of Friends*. It has since been collected and released on 6 DVDs, each containing 4 episodes, in the United States and the UK. The complete series was released on DVD in 2022.

Cast and characters

Main article: List of The Land Before Time characters

List indicator

This section includes characters who will appear or have appeared in more than two films in the series.

- An empty grey cell indicates the character was not in the film, or that the character's official presence has not yet been confirmed.
- [D] indicates an appearance as a character's disguised voice.
- [S] indicates an appearance as a character's singing voice.

Characters	Films														Television	Short Film
	The Land Before Time	*The Great Valley Adventure*	*The Time of the Great Giving*	*Journey Through the Mists*	*The Mysterious Island*	*The Secret of Saurus Rock*	*The Stone of Cold Fire*	*The Big Freeze*	*Journey to Big Water*	*The Great Longneck Migration*	*Invasion of the Tinysauruses*	*The Great Day of the Flyers*	*The Wisdom of Friends*	*Journey of the Brave*	*The Land Before Time* (The Series)	*Littlefoot*
	1988	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2005	2006	2007	2016	2007–2008	2026
Narrator	Pat Hingle	John Ingle				John Ingle								Tony Amendola		Sam Riello
Littlefoot	Gabriel Damon	Scott McAfee			Brandon LaCroix[S] Thomas Dekker[S]	Thomas Dekker			Alec Medlock	Aaron Spann	Nick Price	Cody Arens Logan Arens[D] Anthony Skillman[D]		Felix Avitia	Cody Arens Anthony Skillman[D]	Summer-Joules Saunders
Cera	Candace Hutson	Annndi McAfee														Cristina Vee
Ducky	Judith Barsi	Heather Hogan				Aria Noelle Curzon										Sarah Natochenny
Petrie	Will Ryan	Jeff Bennett														A. J. LoCascio
Spike	*N/A*	Rob Paulsen				Jeff Bennett		Rob Paulsen								Joey Lever
Chomper		Rob Paulsen			Cannon Young									Isaac Brown	Max Burkholder	
Ruby														Meghan Strange		
Grandpa Longneck	Bill Erwin (deleted role)	Kenneth Mars										Does not speak		Barry Bostwick	Kenneth Mars	TBA
Grandma Longneck	Does not speak	Linda Gary			Miriam Flynn							Does not speak		Miriam Flynn		TBA
Daddy Topps	Burke Byrnes	John Ingle		Does not speak	John Ingle									George Ball	John Ingle	Mark Meer
Ducky's Mother	Does not speak	Tress MacNeille			Tress MacNeille		Tress MacNeille		Does not speak	Tress MacNeille	Does not speak	Does not speak	Meghan Strange	Tress MacNeille		TBA
Petrie's Mother	Does not speak	Tress MacNeille			Tress MacNeille	Does not speak	Tress MacNeille			Tress MacNeille		Does not speak	Annndi McAfee	Tress MacNeille		TBA
Kosh		Rob Paulsen			Jeff Bennett						Rob Paulsen			Pete Sepenuk Jeff Bennett		
Littlefoot's Mother	Helen Shaver								Flashback						Flashback	Larissa Loeffler
Chomper's parents		*N/A*			*N/A*											
Hyp			Whit Hertford												Mikey Kelley	
Nod			Scott Menville												Scott Menville	
Mutt			Jeff Bennett												Jeff Bennett	
Ali				Juliana Hansen											Nika Futterman	
Old One				Carol Bruce											Jessica Walter	
Doc						Kris Kristofferson									Jeff Bennett	
Mr. Thicknose								Robert Guillaume							Dorian Harewood	
Tippy								Jeremy Suarez							Cree Summer	
Tippy's Mother								Susan Sroka							Susan Sroka	
Stegosaurus Leader								Rob Paulsen							Rob Paulsen	
Mo									Rob Paulsen	Does not speak		Rob Paulsen			Rob Paulsen	
Shorty										Brandon Michael DePaz					Elizabeth Daly	
Bron										Kiefer Sutherland				Scott Whyte	Cam Clarke	
Tria											Camryn Manheim		Jessica Gee		Jessica Gee	
Guido														Rob Paulsen	Rob Paulsen	
Tricia												Nika Futterman			Meghan Strange	

In other media

Albums

- *The Land Before Time* (1988) *Original Motion Picture Soundtrack*
- *The Land Before Time: Sing-Along Songs* (1997): Songs from the first four movies (movies *I*, *II*, *III*, and *IV*). The album was later released in a VHS format which included facts about the dinosaurs featured in the franchise.
- *The Songs from The Land Before Time* (1997): Songs from the first four movies (movies *I-IV*).
- *The Land Before Time: More Sing-Along Songs* (1999) Songs from movies *V* and *VI* (the last two of the first 6 movies) and *An American Tail* film series (movies *III* and *IV*).
- *The Best Songs from The Land Before Time* (2016) Songs from movies *I*, *VI*, *VIII*, *IX*, *X*, *XI*, and *XIV*.

Video games

Main article: List of The Land Before Time video games

The series has spawned 14 spin-off games, eight for PC, one for the Game Boy Color, two for the Game Boy Advance and three for the original PlayStation. The PC games are usually educational games aimed for preschool and kindergarten. Games for the Game Boy Color and Advance include *The Land Before Time* and *The Land Before Time: Into the Mysterious Beyond*, in which the original six characters must search for *Chomper*. Games for the PlayStation include *The Land Before Time: Big Water Adventure*, a spin-off of *Journey to Big Water*, *The Land Before Time: Great Valley Racing Adventure* and *The Land Before Time: Return to the Great Valley*. All characters in these games are voiced by Lani Minella.

Merchandise

By 2000, the franchise generated $1 billion in retail sales.[4]

References

1. ^ Grosvenor, Charles; Bluth, Don; Smith, Roy Allen; Mitchell, Jamie; Doi, Davis (June 14, 2016), *The Land Before Time: The Complete Collection* (), Universal Studios Home Entertainment, retrieved October 4, 2016
2. ^ *Billboard* (), Nielsen Business Media, Inc, October 29, 1994.
3. ^ *The Land Before Time* (), March 5, 2007, retrieved July 26, 2016
4. ^ Hettrick, Scott (June 23, 2000), "Video bows mint cure" (), *Variety*, Archived (from the original on November 23, 2018. Retrieved October 23, 2025.

External links

- The Land Before Time's channel on YouTube

v · t · e **The Land Before Time** [show]
v · t · e **Universal Animation Studios** [show]

Categories: The Land Before Time | Film series introduced in 1988 | Fiction about dinosaurs | Animated film series | Universal Pictures franchises | Adventure film series | Films adapted into television shows | 1980s English-language films | 1990s English-language films | 2000s English-language films | 2010s English-language films

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